

*The House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2:00 p.m. for
Legislative Business
(No Votes before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 4642—General Accounting Office Personnel Flexibility Act

H.R. 3292—Establishing Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge

H.R. 3084—Establishing the Abraham Lincoln Interpretive Center

**S. 1967—Taking Certain Land Into Trust for the Mississippi Band of
Choctaw Indians**

H.R. 2778—Taunton River Wild and Scenic Study

H.Res. 522—Expressing the Sense of the House on Responsible Fatherhood

**H.Res. 495—Expressing the Sense of the House on the Financial Action
Taskforce**

H.R. 4635—FY 2001 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriation Act

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Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following seven bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 4642 gives the Comptroller General of the United States certain narrowly tailored authority to pursue agency realignment goals. The bill allows the GAO the flexibility to name scientific, technical or professional staff to senior level positions while giving them the same pay, rights and characteristics that members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) currently enjoy. The flexibility allowed by H.R. 4642 (1) establishes a career track for technical experts; (2) creates technical expert positions at super-grade level with SES benefits and attributes otherwise limited to SES leadership/management positions; and (3) reclassifies existing SES members to technical experts without the loss of any existing rights or

benefits. H.R. 4642 also allows the Comptroller General to offer voluntary early retirement to selected employees for the purpose of realignment. Additionally, H.R. 4642 allows the Comptroller General to offer separation pay not in excess of \$25,000 for the purpose of realignment, a practice that is not allowed under current law. Finally, H.R. 4642 allows the Comptroller General to take steps to realign GAO's workforce by considering factors such as the agency's needs in addition to the skills, performance, and knowledge of individuals. This new flexibility will help the GAO meet its budgetary constraints, mission needs, correct skill imbalances, or reduce high grade and managerial positions. The bill was introduced by Messers. Burton and Scarborough on June 13, 2000 and was not considered by a committee.

H.R. 3292 establishes the Cat Island National Wildlife refuge on 9,477 acres of land in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The legislation will conserve and enhance wetlands; protect endangered species, promote fish and wildlife-oriented recreational activities, promote increased stewardship of natural resources through environmental education, and serve as a general wildlife management unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The bill was introduced by Mr. Baker and reported from the Resources Committee by voice vote on April 6, 2000.

H.R. 3084 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants up to \$50,000,000 as a contribution for matching funds for the establishment of an interpretive center that preserves and makes available to the public materials that focus on the life and contributions of President Abraham Lincoln. While the bill authorizes matching funds for the construction of the facility in Springfield, Illinois, it does not provide any funding for its maintenance or operation. The bill also specifies that non-federal funds be equal to at least double the amount of the matching federal grant. An amendment was agreed to in markup that makes the grants conditional upon the centers cooperation with other existing sites that house Lincoln material. The bill was introduced by Mr. Shimkus, *et al.* on October 14, 1999 and reported from the Resources Committee by voice vote on June 7, 2000.

S. 1967 allows land taken into the trust of the United States on behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on or after December 23, 1944 to become part of the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation. The bill also places all land held in fee by the Band within the State of Mississippi in the Trust of the U.S. government for the Band. This bill enables land acquired by the tribe, which are currently not considered part of the Reservation, to become part of the trust. Lands made part of the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation after December 23, 1944, will not be used for gaming purposes. The bill was introduced by Senator Cochran on November 18, 1999 and passed the Senate by unanimous consent on June 14, 2000.

H.R. 2778 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Scenic and Wild Rivers System. The Secretary of the Interior will conduct the study, which will be submitted no later than three years after the enactment of this bill. The bill was introduced by Mr. Moakley on August 15, 1999 and reported by voice vote from the Resources Committee on June 7, 2000.

H.Res. 522 expresses the sense of the House regarding responsible fatherhood. Specifically, the resolution (1) recognizes that the creation of a better America depends in large part on the active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children; (2) urges each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, to be actively involved in rearing his children, and to encourage the academic, moral, and spiritual development of his children; (3) urges governments and institutions at every level to remove barriers to father involvement and enact public

policies that encourage and support the efforts of fathers who want to become more engaged in the lives of their children; (4) encourages each father to devote time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but more importantly a secure, nurturing, family environment; and (5) expresses its support for the National Fatherhood Initiative, and its work to inspire and equip fathers to be positively involved in the raising and development of their children. The bill was introduced by Mr. Pitts *et al.* on June 9, 2000.

H.Res. 495 expresses the sense of the House that (1) the United States should continue to actively and publicly support the objectives of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) with regard to combating international money laundering; (2) the FATF should identify noncooperative jurisdictions in as expeditious a manner as possible and publicly release a list directly naming those jurisdictions identified; (3) the United States should support the public release of the list naming noncooperative jurisdictions identified by the FATF; (4) the United States should encourage the adoption of the necessary international action to encourage compliance by the identified noncooperative jurisdictions; and (5) the United States should take the necessary countermeasures to protect the United States economy against money of unlawful origin and encourage other nations to do the same. The bill was introduced by Ms. Roukema on June 9, 2000 and was not considered by a committee.

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H.R. 4635—VA-HUD and Independent Agencies.

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 4635 after consideration of the seven bills under suspension of the rules. The House passed H.Res. 525 on Thursday, June 15, which established an open rule on the measure that provides one hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee, waives points of order against non-emergency amendments from being offered to a bill containing emergency designations, and waives all points of order against unauthorized legislative provisions in a general appropriations bill, except for two provisions in Title III of the bill. The first unprotected provision prohibits EPA from reserving funds to conduct studies on the health effects of contaminants in drinking water. The second unprotected provision prohibits funds from being designated as emergency requirements unless the President submits an official budget request that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement.

The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority in recognizing members who have preprinted their amendments in the *Congressional Record*, and allows the chairman to postpone votes. Lastly, the rule allow for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Information on potential amendments will be provided in a *FloorPrep* prior to floor consideration.

Highlights. H.R. 4635 provides \$101.1 billion in new budget authority for veterans' benefits, housing programs, and various agencies dealing mostly with science, space, and the environment. This amount is \$8.22 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$6.5 billion less than the president's request (which included a \$2.6 billion FY 2001 request for FEMA emergency spending and a \$4.2 billion advance appropriation request for FY 2001 for Section 8 housing). A majority of this funding, \$76.48 billion, is allocated

for discretionary spending (\$6.5 billion less than the president's request and \$4.9 billion more than last year) programs, while the remaining \$24.61 billion is mandatory spending (outside of the control of the Appropriations Committee). The CBO "freeze" level for VA-HUD is \$76.9 billion.

A large portion of the bill's funding, \$46.85 billion, supports the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) efforts to provide extensive health, housing, education, and compensatory benefits to military veterans and their dependents (\$2.6 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$97.74 million less than the president's request). The measure appropriates \$29.96 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$4.1 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$2.5 billion less than the president's request (which includes an advance appropriation request of \$4.2 billion for FY 2002). Specifically, the bill provides \$13.28 billion for Section 8 housing rental assistance (\$2.4 billion more than last year), \$1 billion (a \$180 million decrease from last year) for homeless assistance, and \$4.5 billion for community development block grants.

H.R. 4635 also provides \$7.15 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (\$312.77 million less than FY 2000 and \$15.1 million less than the president's request). The bill provides \$876.73 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a decrease of \$2.61 billion from the president's request and a \$2.48 billion decrease from last year's level.

In addition, the measure provides \$13.7 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—\$60.9 million more than in FY 2000 and \$321.7 million less than the president's request. Specifically, the bill provides \$5.5 billion for space shuttle operations, which includes funds for the International Space Station. Finally, the bill provides \$4.06 billion for the National Science Foundation, \$152.25 million more than in FY 2000 and \$508.1 million less than the president's request.

Sticking Points. Several issues may become the subject of debate during floor consideration, including the following:

* **Environmental Protection Agency.** H.R. 4635 reduces the EPA's funding by about \$288 million dollars from last year, \$158 million dollars, which is the result two agencies being transferred from the EPA. Also the measure places restrictions on funds being used to implement EPA regulations, (e.g. regulations relating to the Kyoto protocol and maximum daily loads). Also, the bill prohibits funds being used to fund "invasive" techniques to clean contaminated sediments from waterways until studies are completed on the proposed cleaning techniques.

* **Disaster Relief.** The bill eliminates additional FEMA funding for disaster relief while the president's budget proposed a level of \$2.91 billion. The measure provides \$300 million, a decrease of \$2.61 billion. These funds would be used as emergency funding to provide relief and funds to rebuild communities in time when natural disasters strike. Advocates of greater funding argue that meteorologists are predicting an active hurricane season, while those who support the bill in its current form argue that FEMA already has \$1.7 billion available and that additional funds can be provided in emergency appropriations.

* **AmeriCorps.** The measure terminates funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (except for \$5 million for Inspector General activities)—the agency received \$434.5 million last year and the president requested \$533.7 million for FY 2001. One of President Clinton's cherished priorities, program supporters view any attempt to reduce or terminate AmeriCorps funding

as a politically motivated attack on a valuable government service program. Critics counter that AmeriCorps is wasteful and unnecessary because the idea that the government needs to pay “volunteers” is wholly at odds with the notion of community service.

* **Community Renewal.** H.R. 4635 does not provide any funds for the community renewal initiative recently agreed to by the President and congressional leaders. The program is designed to mix incentives and federal funds to stimulate growth and renewal in 80 of the nation’s poorest communities. Proponents argue that the initiative will be crucial in providing new life to impoverished and run down cities. The measure does not currently appropriate any funds but congressional leaders have indicated that funds may be provided later. Furthermore, specific portions of the agreement have yet to be authorized by the Congress.

Mr. Walsh submitted the bill on June 12, 2000 and the Appropriations Committee reported the bill by voice vote on June 8, 2000.

Amendments: At press time *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments.

Messrs. Collins and Linder may offer an amendment (#1) to prohibit any funds from being used to designate new Clean Air Act nonattainment areas, in order to allow the Supreme Court to render its decision on new federal air quality standards prior to new designations. On May 14, 1999 the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that the EPA usurped Congress’ legislative authority in promulgating strict new standards on air quality. The Supreme Court will hear the EPA’s appeal this fall. *Staff Contact: Matt Ramsey (Collins), x5-5901, Ryan Van Meter (Linder), x5-4272*

Messrs. Nadler, Shays, Crowley, and Horn may offer an amendment (#2) that increases funding for Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) by \$18 million dollars, from \$232 million to \$250 million (\$10 million less than the administration’s request and \$18 million above last year’s level). To offset the increase the amendment would decrease the earmark for Polar and Antarctic research by \$18 million, to \$246.5 million. *Staff Contact: David Greengrass x5-5541*

Mr. Nadler and Ms. DeGette may offer an amendment (#3) that increases funding for Section 8 housing by \$690 million in order to provide funds for 120,000 new Section 8 vouchers matching the administration’s request for 120,000 new vouchers. The amendment will decrease the \$2.1 billion allotted for the International Space Station by a corresponding \$690 million dollars. *Staff Contacts: John Doty (Nadler), x5-5635, Shannon Good (DeGette) x5-4431*

Mr. Nadler and Ms. DeGette may offer an amendment (#4) that increases funding for Section 8 housing in order to provide funds for 60,000 new Section 8 vouchers (the administration requested 120,000 new vouchers). The amendment would provide \$344 million by transferring \$344 million from the \$2.1 billion allotted for the International Space Station. *Staff Contacts: John Doty (Nadler) x5-5635, Shannon Good (DeGette) x5-4431*

Mr. Ney may offer an amendment (#5) that reduces the EPA’s Environmental Management Programs budget by \$5.5 million (currently the budget is \$1.9 billion) and transfer it to the Veterans Health Administration Medical Care budget, resulting in a transfer of \$5 million and increasing their funding to \$20.8 billion. The amount transferred would not be \$5.5 million due to the fact that the Veterans Administration spends funds at a faster rate. The CBO scored the amendment as budget

neutral. *Staff Contact: Maria Robinson, x5-6265*

Messers. Roemer and Ganske may offer an amendment (#6) that will delete the \$2.1 billion dollars appropriated for the International Space Station (ISS). The amendment will provide the NSF with an additional: (1) \$405 million for research and related activities, (2) \$62 million for major research equipment, (3) \$34.7 million for education and human resources, and (4) \$5.9 million for salaries and expenses.

NASA will receive and additional: (1) \$290 million for the space launch initiative, (2) \$20 million for the Living With a Star initiative, (3) \$6 million for small aircraft and transportation systems, and (4) \$49 million for aviation systems capacity. While the VA would receive an additional: (1) \$10 million for medical research and prosthetics research, (2) \$10 million for minor projects construction, (3) \$30 million for grants for construction of state extended care facilities, and (4) \$56 million for departmental administration general operating expenses. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

Messers. Roemer and Sanford may offer an amendment (#7) that requires the NASA Administrator to terminate all contracts and agreements with the Russian government necessary to remove the Russian Government as a partner in the ISS program. Also, the amendment prohibits NASA from entering into new partnerships with the Russian government regarding the ISS. The amendment does not prohibit NASA from accepting participation from Russian entities on a commercial basis or from purchasing elements of the ISS directly from Russian contractors. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

Mr. Roemer may offer an amendment (#8) that caps the total funding for the ISS at \$21.9 billion dollars, and caps space shuttle costs associated with assembly of the ISS at \$17.7 billion dollars. These limitations do not apply to funding for operations, research, space shuttle launch costs and crew return activities subsequent to substantial completion of the ISS, which is defined as development costs comprising less than 5 percent of total ISS costs for the fiscal year. The amendment allows for these caps to adjust with inflation or the lack of performance or termination of participation by and ISS participating country. Furthermore the amendment requires the NASA administrator to provide a written notice and analysis of any modifications in the cap amounts made under the bill's provisions for such changes, to the House Science and Appropriations Committees, as well as to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation and Appropriations Committees. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

Mr. Trafficant may offer an amendment (#9) that transfers \$35 million dollars from the Management and Expenses Account of HUD and transfer it to the HUD Community Development Fund in order to fund site acquisition, planning, architectural design, and construction of a convocation and community center in Youngstown Ohio. *Contact: x5-5261*

Mr. Trafficant may offer an amendment (#10) that transfers \$35 million from the HUD Salaries and Expenses account of the Management and Administration section to the Community Development Fund of the Community Planning and Development Section. *Contact: x5-5261*

Mr. Andrews may offer an amendment (#11) that transfers \$25 million dollars from HUD administrative expenses to the EPA Safe Drinking Water fund. This would increase the total amount for the Safe Drinking Water Fund from \$825 million to \$850 million dollars. In FY 2000 \$885 million was provided for the fund. *Contact: x5-6501*

Mr. Andrews may offer an amendment (#12) that transfers \$60 million dollars from HUD administrative expenses to the EPA Safe Drinking Water fund. This would increase the total amount for the Safe Drinking Water Fund from \$825 million to \$885 million dollars, matching the FY 2000 level. *Contact x5-6501*

Mr. Bilirakis may offer an amendment (#13) that establishes an office of The Environmental Protection Agency National Hazardous waste and Superfund Ombudsman. The function of this office will be to (1) assist citizens in resolving problems with the EPA, (2) identify areas where citizens are having problems dealing with the EPA, (3) propose administrative changes within the EPA to mitigate such problems, (4) identify potential legislative changes to mitigate such problems, and (5) conduct investigations, findings of fact, and make non-binding recommendations.

In order to carry out these responsibilities the Ombudsman will have the power to: (1) investigate any act of the Environmental protection agency, upon complaint or his own motion, without regard to its finality; (2) adopt rules necessary for the execution of duties, including procedures for receiving and processing complaints, conducting investigations, and reporting filing consistent with the U.S. Ombudsman Association Model Act for establishing an Ombudsman; (3) examine records and documents and inspect, without notice, the premises of the EPA and related authorities (4) issue subpoenas to any person to appear and give sworn testimony or to produce evidence related to an Ombudsman investigation; (5) conduct conferences, studies, or hearings necessary to an Ombudsman investigation or which may lead to improvements in the EPA or related agencies; (6) keep the identities and communications of people or witnesses coming before the Ombudsman confidential; (7) request an independent counsel from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the appropriate U.S. Attorney or otherwise to enforce the provisions of Ombudsman's office; and (8) administer a budget for the Office of Environmental Protection Agency National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman.

In addition the Ombudsman will be required to issue annual reports on the status concerns brought to the Ombudsman to the House Commerce Committee, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committees and the President. The amendment makes \$2 million available within the general funds of the EPA for FY 2001 to fund the office and makes a severability provision where if any part of the Amendment is found invalid all others will remain in force. *Staff Contact: Sarah Owen, x5-5755*

Mr. Bilirakis may offer an amendment (#14) that provides that \$2 million dollars of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund account will be made available to fund the National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman. *Staff Contact: Sarah Owen, x5-5755*

Mr. DeFazio may offer an amendment (#15) that prohibits HUD funds, including economic development programs, Community Development Block Grants, Economic Development Initiative Block Grants, and Section 108 Loan Guarantees from being used to provide financial assistance to construct, operate, or otherwise benefit shops that engage solely in the sale of tobacco. *Staff Contact: Lisa Bart, x5-6416*

Mr. DeFazio may offer an amendment (#16) that increases funding for VA medical and prosthetic research by \$16 million, to a total of \$337 million, while reducing funds for the selective service system by \$16 million, from \$23 to \$7 million. *Staff Contact: Tom Vinson, x5-6416*

Mr. DeFazio may offer an amendment (#17) that reduces funding for the Selective Service System by

\$16 million, from \$23 million to \$7 million. *Staff Contact: Tom Vinson, x5-6416*

Messrs. Filner and Rodriguez may offer an amendment (#18) that increases VA funds for construction of state extended care facilities by \$80 million to \$140 million, consistent with the request to the Budget Committee made by the Veterans Affairs Committee. This year the administration requested, and the Appropriates Committee approved \$60 million. Last year \$90 was appropriated for extended care facilities. The amendment includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

Mr. Filner may offer an amendment (#19) that adds \$25 million for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Benefits account. It also includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

Mr. Filner may offer an amendment (#20) that provides \$35.2 million dollars to fund VA health care benefits for Filipino nationals who fought for the United States in World War II. The Rescissions Acts of 1946 excluded Filipino veterans from receiving VA benefits. The \$35.2 million dollars was the amount estimated necessary to fully fund benefits for these veterans. The amendment includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

Mr. Filner may offer an amendment (#21) that adds \$900 million to the Readjustment Benefits account of the VA. This amount will be used to increase the monthly stipend for the Montgomery G.I. Bill to \$975, which is the College Board estimated amount necessary to pay the cost of a commuter student to a four-year public college. The amendment includes a provision that the funds be designated as an emergency requirement, and that the funds will be available only to the extent that the specific amount is requested with the emergency requirement designation by the president. *Contact: x5-8045*

Mr. Hinchey may offer an amendment (#22) that increases the amount made available for the Federal Housing Enterprise Financial Safety Soundness Act by \$4.77 million to \$26.77 million. *Contact: x5-6335*

Mr. Hinchey may offer an amendment (#23) may offer an amendment prohibiting funds in the bill from being used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement or administer the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) system. VERA was established to provide medical care funding to regions across the country (with growing veteran populations) in a more equitable fashion. The system was created in response to findings indicating that the veteran population is shifting to different parts of the country but health care dollars are not. The VA's plan employs an allocation formula that ties funding for each of the 22 geographic regions to the numbers of veterans they actually serve. Proponents of the amendment contend that the VERA model does not provide adequate resources for aging veterans who remain in the Northeast and Midwest (where the veteran population is decreasing) and have subsequently resulted in a decrease in both the quantity and quality of health care services in those areas. *Contact: x5-6335*

Mr. Hostettler may offer an amendment (#24) that adds a section to the bill prohibiting any funds from being used to administer the Communities for Safer Guns Coalition, a gun buyback program initiated

by the Clinton administration. The bill has not appropriated any funds for the program in FY 2001. **Contact: x5-4636**

Mr. Hostettler may offer an amendment (#25) that adds a section to the bill that prevents any funds in the bill from being used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the March 17, 2000 settlement between the gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson and HUD. **Contact: x5-4636**

Mr. Evans may offer an amendment (#27) that adds: (1) \$25 million to the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account (the bill currently appropriates \$321 million), (2) \$14 million for VA operating expenses (the measure provides \$1 billion), (3) \$3 million more for the National Cemetery Administration (the bill provides \$106 million), (4) \$62 million for VA minor building projects (the bill appropriates \$100 million), (5) \$80 million for construction of state extended care facilities (more than doubling the bill's level of \$60 million). To offset these increases the bill would decrease NASA's Human Space Flight Account by \$184 million from its current level of \$5.5 billion. **Contact: x5-5905**

Mr. Gutierrez may offer an amendment (#28) that adds \$25 million to the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account (the bill appropriates \$321 million) and reduce the NASA Human Space Flight account by \$25 million (the bill provides \$5.5 billion). **Contact: x5-8203**

Mr. Gutierrez may offer an amendment (#29) that adds \$25 million to the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account (the bill appropriates \$321 million) and reduce the NASA Science, Aeronautics and Technology account by \$25 million (the bill provides this account with \$5.6 billion). **Contact: x5-8203**

Mr. Ney may offer an amendment (#30) that increases funding for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research account by \$5 million (the bill appropriates \$321 million) and reduce funding for EPA environmental programs and management by \$5 million (the bill appropriates \$1.9 billion). **Staff Contact: Maria Robinson, x5-6265**

Mr. Pascrell may offer an amendment (#31) that reduces the VA Departmental Administration General Operating Expenses by \$100,000 and subsequently increase the same account by \$100,000. **Contact: x5-5751**

Messrs. Tancredo, Weller, Johns, Ryan, and Hilleary may offer an amendment increasing by \$30 million the amount allocated to the State Extended Care Facilities Construction Grant Program, restoring the program to its FY 2000 level of \$90 million. The amendment would offset the increase by reducing the HUD Management and Administration, Salaries and Expenses account by \$30 million to \$974.38 million. **Staff Contact: Matt Knoedler (Tancredo) x5-7882, or Ben Fallon (Weller) x5-3635**

Messrs. Waxman, Evans, Hansen, Meehan and Ms. Stabenow may offer an amendment removing a provision in the Title I of the bill, the Veterans Administration, which prohibits any VA medical care fund from being used to fund Justice Department lawsuits against tobacco companies. **Contact: x5-3976**

Mr. Stearns may offer an amendment increasing funding for the State Extended Care Facilities Construction Grant Program by \$40 million (currently the bill provides \$60 million) and reduces funding for the National Community Reinvestment Corporation by \$40 million to \$50 million. **Staff Contact: Veronica Crowe, x5-5744**

Mr. Obey may offer an amendment that will (1) increase HUD's Housing Opportunities for People With Aids (HOPWA) funds by \$9 million, (2) increase HUD homeless assistance grants funding by \$20 million, (3) increase funds for capital advances in housing for the elderly, under HUD's Housing for Special Populations program, by \$69 million, (4) increase funds for capital advances in housing for the disabled, under HUD's Housing for Special Populations program, by \$9 million, (5) offsets the increased funding by add a section to the HUD Administrative Provisions which will amend the National Housing Act using provisions taken from H.R. 1776, which passed the House on April 6, 2000. The amendment takes several sections from H.R. 1776 that include: (1) permanent down payment Simplification (the CBO estimates that this will cost \$7 million dollars), (2) reduced down payment requirements for teachers and uniformed municipal employees (estimated by the CBO to save \$24 million), and (3) hybrid adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) (CBO estimates that this will save \$90 million dollars). The total savings from the offsetting portion of the amendment will be \$107 million dollars, however the amendment includes authorizing language that makes it subject to a point of order since it is being offered to an appropriations bill. **Staff Contact: William Painter, x5-3365**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #17, June 16, 2000.



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